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IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims in the present application with the following listing of claims, as amended:

1. (currently amended) A method for routing information in a communication system ~~that includes a platform and a backbone connection apparatus configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions~~, the method comprising:
receiving the information from the a platform configured to support performance enhancing functions including protocol spoofing, and receiving backbone connection parameters, wherein the a backbone connection apparatus maintains a profile that contains includes the backbone connection parameters associated with a backbone connection to a peer platform, wherein the backbone connection parameters include information relating to traffic compression over the backbone connection and information relating to the protocol spoofing; and
routing the information over the backbone connection in accordance with the profile.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining [[a]] one of a plurality of backbone connections including the backbone connection which the information takes to reach its destination based on the profile for reaching the peer platform.
3. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
determining the backbone connection by applying a mapping table.
4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the mapping table maps segment destination identifiers to backbone control blocks.
5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the backbone control blocks store information related to the backbone connection.

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6. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the mapping table stores pointers to the backbone control blocks.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving the backbone connection parameters as a data structure from the platform.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving the backbone connection parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated backbone connection parameters.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the profile includes at least one backbone connection protocol for at least one type of connection link.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein a first type of link runs a first type of backbone connection protocol and a second type of link runs a second type of backbone connection protocol.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the first type of link and the second type of link are run simultaneously.

12. (currently amended) A communication system comprising:
a platform configured to provide performance enhancing functions including protocol spoofing, the platform supplying information and backbone connection parameters;

a backbone connection apparatus communicating with the platform, the backbone connection apparatus being configured to receive the information and the backbone connection parameters from the platform, wherein the backbone connection apparatus has a profile that ~~specifies~~ includes the backbone connection parameters

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associated with a backbone connection to a peer platform, wherein the backbone connection parameters include information relating to traffic compression over the backbone connection and information relating to the protocol spoofing, wherein the communication system is configured to route the information in accordance with the profile.

13. (currently amended) The communication system of claim 12, wherein the backbone connection apparatus determines [[a]] one of a plurality of backbone connections including the backbone connection which the information takes to reach its destination for reaching the peer platform.

14. (original) The communication system of claim 12, wherein the backbone connection apparatus determines the backbone connection by applying a mapping table.

15. (original) The communication system of claim 12, wherein the mapping table maps segment destination identifiers to backbone control blocks.

16. (original) The communication system of claim 15, wherein the backbone control blocks store information related to the backbone connection.

17. (original) The communication system of claim 15, wherein the mapping table stores pointers to the backbone control blocks.

18. (original) The communication system of claim 12, wherein the backbone connection apparatus receives the backbone connection and parameters as a data structure from the platform.

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19. (currently amended) The communication system of claim 12, wherein the backbone connection apparatus receives the backbone connection parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated backbone connection parameters.

20. (original) The communication system of claim 19, wherein the profile includes at least one backbone connection protocol for at least one type of connection link.

21. (original) The communication system of claim 20, wherein a first type of link runs a first type of backbone connection protocol and a second type of link runs a second type of backbone connection protocol.

22. (original) The communication system of claim 20, wherein the first type of link and the second type of link are run simultaneously.

23. (currently amended) A backbone connection apparatus for routing information in a communication system ~~that includes a platform configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions~~, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving the information and at least one of path selection and path activation parameters[[,]] ;

means for maintaining a profile containing the backbone connection parameters associated with a backbone connection to a peer platform, wherein the backbone connection parameters include information relating to traffic compression over the backbone connection and information relating to protocol spoofing; and

means for routing the information in accordance with the profile.

24. (currently amended) The backbone connection apparatus of claim 23, wherein the backbone connection apparatus determines [[a]] one of a plurality of backbone connections including the backbone connection which the information takes to reach its destination for reaching the peer platform.

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25. (original) The backbone connection apparatus of claim 23, wherein the backbone connection apparatus determines the backbone connection by applying a mapping table.

26. (original) The backbone connection apparatus of claim 25, wherein the mapping table maps segment destination identifiers to backbone control blocks.

27. (original) The backbone connection apparatus of claim 26, wherein the backbone control blocks store information related to the backbone connection.

28. (original) The backbone connection apparatus of claim 26, wherein the mapping table stores pointers to the backbone control blocks.

29. (original) The backbone connection apparatus of claim 23, wherein the backbone connection apparatus receives the backbone connection parameters as a data structure from the platform.

30. (currently amended) The backbone connection apparatus of claim 23, wherein the backbone connection apparatus receives the backbone connection parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated backbone connection parameters.

31. (original) The backbone connection apparatus of claim 30, wherein the profile includes at least one backbone connection protocol for at least one type of connection link.

32. (original) The backbone connection apparatus of claim 31, wherein a first type of link runs a first type of backbone connection protocol and a second type of link runs a second type of backbone connection protocol.

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33. (original) The backbone connection apparatus of claim 32, wherein the first type of link and the second type of link are run simultaneously.

34. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for routing information in a communication system ~~that includes a platform and a backbone connection apparatus configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions~~, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving the information from ~~the a platform configured to support performance enhancing functions including protocol spoofing~~, and receiving backbone connection parameters, wherein ~~the a backbone connection apparatus maintains a profile that contains~~ includes the backbone connection parameters associated with a backbone connection to a peer platform, wherein the backbone connection parameters include information relating to traffic compression over the backbone connection and information relating to the protocol spoofing; and

routing the information over the backbone connection in accordance with the profile.

35. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:

determining ~~[[a]] one of a plurality of backbone connections including the backbone connection which the information takes to reach its destination based on the profile~~ for reaching the peer platform.

36. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:
determining the backbone connection by applying a mapping table.

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37. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, wherein the mapping table maps segment destination identifiers to backbone control blocks.

38. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the backbone control blocks store information related to the backbone connection.

39. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the mapping table stores pointers to the backbone control blocks.

40. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising: receiving the backbone connection parameters as a data structure from the platform.

41. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:
receiving the backbone connection parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated backbone connection parameters.

42. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the profile includes at least one backbone connection protocol for at least one type of connection link.

43. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 42, wherein a first type of link runs a first type of backbone connection protocol and a second type of link runs a second type of backbone connection protocol.

44. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first type of link and the second type of link are run simultaneously.

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